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Mr. & Mrs. Art Dietrich 10201 E Durham Rd. Dewey, AZ 86327 Sept. 2014. ANIZMA Republic

## Smart electricity meters investigated as possible cause of 9 Reno-area fires

## **SCOTT SONNER**

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RENO — Nevada utility officials said last week they will turn over all data demanded by state regulators investigating whether smart electricity meters pose a fire danger.

The state fire marshal and local fire chiefs sought the preliminary inquiry after investigators linked the meters to nine fires in Reno and Sparks since HOISSIMMO 2012 with the most recent resulting in a

death in July.

In recent years, NV Energy has interest the devices in homes across Nevada to wirelessly

homes across Nevada to wirelessly transmit information on power use ev-

OBAI Domutes.

Officials for the utility say they have investigated and don't think the meters caused any of the blazes but will provide everything requested by regula-

tors.

"Safety is very important to us," NV Energy Vice President Mary Simmons said. "Some of the information may have been inconclusive, but we're not aware of anything that has linked our

The Nevada Public Utilities Commission issued the formal order Monday compelling the utility to turn over all documents related to the meters.

smart meters to a structural fire."

The order notes that Oracle Forensics — a private firm hired by fire departments to review the fatal Reno fire and others — concluded a "common failure mode cannot be eliminated and needs to be seriously considered regarding" the meters.

Among other things, the PUC wants

Among other things, the PUC wants copies of all fire investigative reports related to the meters; a list of all meter failures; and fires at or near the meters since 2000.

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